so far, in New Delhi. February 2-4, 1994, in Beijing, April 21-22, 1994, and New Delhi, March 2-4, 1995-

The mandate of the £xpt:rt Group includes clarification of the line of actual control (LAC) between India and China, reduction of military forces along the India—China LAC, other confidence building measures and verification methods.

At its second meeting, the two sides reached agreement on the Work Regulations of the Expert Group which spells out the mandate, future tasks and modalities of the Expert Group-

At *its* third meeting, both sides noted with satisfaction that the situ-aion along the India—China LAC was peaceful. Continuing their dis cussions on additional confidence building measures, they had a useful exchange of views on the drafts on prior notification of military exei-cises and. prevention of air intru-sions. They also agreed that addi-tional designated points for meetings between the border personnel of the two countries would be established at Nathu La in the Sikltiia Sector and a point to be agreed in the Middle Sector of the India—China border areas-Discussions in the Expert Group aie progressing smoothly, -with the two sides adopting a constructive and forward-looking approach' The nest meeting of the Expert Group will be hold in Beijing at a mutually conven-ient date in 1995

India's rejection of vestrictions on its peaceful nuclear programme

1309. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF-FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-cently ruled out the possibility of India agreeing to Unilaterally Cap fissile material production or accept-ing any restriction on its peaceful nuclear programme: and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a statement issued by the official spokesman on the 11th February, 1995, Government has clearly stated that there is no question of India's unilaterally stop-ping the production of fissible mate-rial, or accepting restriction on its programmes for the peaceful use of nuclear energy-

US Committee's Report indicting ISI on Kashmir

1310. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FXTERNAL AF-FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atten-tion has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Times of India dated 28th February, 1995 under the caption "Report indicts ISI on Kash-mir":

(b) whether the report published by the Committee on International Security studies of American Acade-my of Arts arid Sciences has confirmed India's charge that terrorists in Pun-jab and Jammu and Kashmir are getting arms from Pakistan: and

(c) whether Government propose to take up the matter with Govern-ment of the. USA and raise it in world, fora; and if so. the details of the steps, to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS 'SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes. Sir

(c) Government have repeatedly emphasized to other countries, including the US, that Pakistan's support to terrorist activiteis in India is continuing with the supply of arms, equipment, training and infiltration. This has also been stated by Indian representatives in international fora-

Visit of the Italian President to India

1311. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Italian President visited India in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with the names of others who accompanied him;

(c) whether this visit was with some objectives;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some issues of bilateral interest were discussed daring this 'visit;

(f) whether India has been benefitted by this visit; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEI D): (a); and (b) The President of Laly, "Mr-Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, paid a State visit to India from 9-12 February 1995. He was accompanied by foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli, Minister of State for Foreign Trade Mario D' Urso, senior officials and a high-level business delegation. President Scalfaro interacted with t*he* President and met the Vice President. the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Commerce Minister and the Minitser of State for External Affairs

(c) and (d) This was the first ever Head of State level visit exchanged with Itally, and coincided with Italy's participation as "Partner Country" in the India Engineering Trade Fair (IETF) 1995 which *was* jointly inaugurated by the Presidents of India and Italy;

(e) to (g) The principal focus of discussions during the visit was on expansion of bilateral trade and economic relations- The Italian President underlined Italy's desire to strengthen relations with India in the political economic, scientific and cultural fields. He also stressed the importance of closer cooperation between India and Italy to confront the challenge posed by fundamentalism and terrorism. During talks between the Italian Foreign Minister and the Minister of State for Exter- • nal Affairs, views were exchanged on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. The Italian side reiterated their interest in receiving an early visit by the Prime Minister, as well Is an Indian cultural manifestation in Italy to coincide with a future high-level visit from India. The visit of the Italian President has imparted further impetus to the intensification of Indo-Italian relations in diverse fields-

Indian Proposal for Non-Discrhninatory Nnclearr Ban Treaty

1312. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is discriminatory and only favours USA, Russia, UK and France:

(b) whether Government propose to take up with the Committee on Disarmament to start negotiations for a non-discriminatory treaty to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons; and